

District of Columbia

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This report is based on data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

## Households and Families: District of Columbia 2010

### Introduction

The 2010 Census enumerated 601,723 people in the District of Columbia, a 5.2 percent increase from 572,059 people in Census 2000. Of the total population in 2010, 561,702 people lived in 266,707 households for an average of 2.11 people per household. This was down from an average of 2.16 in 2000 when 536,497 people lived in 248,338 households. The remaining 40,000 people in 2010 lived in group quarters arrangements such as nursing homes, university dormitories, and military barracks. This report was prepared using data derived from the household relationship question on the 2010 Census and presents information on the number and types of living arrangements of District of Columbia households in 2010, including unmarried partner households.

### Household Relationships

District households are very diverse with several relationship categories. One category is the householder, his or her spouse, and his or her sons and daughters comprising 446,795 people or 79.5 percent of the household population (Table 1). Of the 121,429 children of householders, 95 percent were biological children. There were 18 percent more adopted children (3,293) than step children (2,720). As expected, most of the children living with their parents were under 18 years old. Of the 115,416 children that were the biological sons or daughters of the householder, 80,575 or 69.8 percent were under 18 years old.

Another relationship category was the grandchildren of the householder, comprising 18,123 people in 2010. Brothers and sisters of the householder numbered 9,550 people. At the other end of the generation continuum were the parents and parent-in-laws of the householder, comprising 4,644 people and 563 people, respectively. Unlike people in any other relationship category, the majority of these were 65 years and over – 52.5 percent of parents and 67 percent of parents-in-law were this age. Although not specified by detailed type in the 2010 Census, another 14,274 people were “other relatives” who lived in households.

### Nonrelatives of the Householder

People who were not related to the householder numbered 68,316 people in 2010 (12.2 percent of the household population), up from 52,225 people in 2000 (9.7 percent of the household population). This

group consists of roomers and boarders, housemates or roommates, unmarried partners and other non-relatives (Table 1). Roomers and boarders comprised 7,184 individuals (1.3 percent) and represented a wide array of people such as students, migrants waiting for better accommodations, or people who could not afford to rent their own home. Housemates or roommates who were coequals with the householder and who shared maintenance of the housing unit comprised 30,655 individuals, or 5.5 percent of the total household population in 2010.

The unmarried partner population consisting of opposite-sex partners and same-sex partners numbered 20,570 people in 2010 and grew 38 percent between 2000 and 2010 - eight times more than the overall household population which grew 4.7 percent. Other non-relative households grew from 7,323 households in 2000 to 9,907 households in 2010, representing 1.8 percent of all District households.

### Types of Households

The various relationship types mentioned above contribute to the formation of households, both family and nonfamily households. The characteristics of the people in a household has important consequences for economic resources available to housing units, and for access to everyday social support systems such as care for young children or older parents. The following sections show the different types of households in 2010 and their growth over the decade.

The number of households in the District increased 7.4 percent, from 248,338 in 2000 to 266,707 in 2010 (Table 2). While family households decreased 1.3 percent, from 114,166 in 2000 to 112,715 in 2010, nonfamily households increased 14.7 percent from 134,172 in 2000 to 153,992 in 2010. As a proportion of all households, family households declined from 46 percent in 2000 to 42.3 percent in 2010, while the proportion of nonfamily households increased from 54 percent to 57.7 percent, over the same period.

Table 2 shows that husband-wife households numbered 58,659 in 2010 and made up 52 percent of all family households. Family households maintained by a female householder with no spouse present numbered 43,680 in 2010, more than four times the number maintained by a male

**Table 1. Household Relationship and Group Quarters Population: 2000 and 2010**

Subject	2000		2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Household And Group Quarters Population</b>				
Total population	572,059	100	601,723	100
In households	536,497	93.8	561,702	93.3
In group quarters	35,562	6.2	40,021	6.7
Institutionalized population	7,964	1.4	7,339	1.2
Noninstitutionalized population	27,598	4.8	32,682	5.4
<b>Household Relationship</b>				
Household population	536,497	100	561,702	100
Householder	248,338	46.3	266,707	47.5
Spouse	56,631	10.6	58,659	10.4
Child	129,116	24.1	121,429	21.6
Biological child	122,518	22.8	115,416	20.5
Child - Under 18 years	88,899	16.6	80,575	14.3
Adopted child	3,754	0.7	3,293	0.6
Step child	3,168	0.6	2,720	.05
Grandchild	21,629	4	18,123	3.2
Brother or sister	10,217	1.9	9,550	1.7
Parent	4,960	0.9	4,644	0.8
Parent-in-law	N/A	N/A	563	0.1
Other relatives of householder	13,381	2.5	14,274	2.5
Nonrelatives of householder	52,225	9.7	68,316	12.2
Roomer, boarder or foster child	9,885	1.8	7,184	1.3
Housemate or roommate	20,131	3.8	30,655	5.5
Unmarried partner	14,886	2.8	20,570	3.7
Other nonrelatives	7,323	1.4	9,907	1.8
<b>Household Relationship For Selected Age Groups</b>				
<b>Household population under 18 years</b>				
Householder or spouse	183	0.2	79	0.1
Child of householder	88,899	78.1	80,575	80.7
In married-couple family	37,532	33	36,927	37
With female householder, no husband present	45,455	39.9	38,248	38.3
With male householder, no wife present			5,400	5.4
Grandchild	16,723	14.7	12,822	12.8
Other relatives	5,374	4.7	4,622	4.6
Nonrelatives	2,669	2.3	1,708	1.7
<b>Household population 65 years and over</b>				
Householder	48,501	74.1	49,381	75.2
Family householder	21,800	33.3	21,369	32.5
Male	12,002	18.3	11,647	17.7
Female	9,798	15	9,722	14.8
Nonfamily householder	26,701	40.8	28,012	42.6
Male	8,111	12.4	9,867	15
Living alone	7,303	11.2	8,808	13.4
Female	18,590	28.4	18,145	27.6
Living alone	17,600	26.9	17,105	26
Spouse	9,731	14.9	9,757	14.9
Parent	2,691	4.1	2,437	3.7
Other relatives	2,441	3.7	2,135	3.3
Nonrelatives	2,056	3.1	1,975	3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010. N/A – Not available.

householder with no spouse present (10,376). Among nonfamily households, one-person (living alone) households predominated (117,431 households or 44 percent) and were more than three times as common as nonfamily households with two or more people (36,561 households or 13.7 percent). In 2010, more women than men lived alone - 51,964 and 65,467, respectively.

Despite increases in both the number of households and of people in the District since 2000, the average household size decreased over the decade, from 2.16 to 2.11, and average family size, from 3.07 to 3.01. However, these indicators show a continued downward trend in household size since the end of the 'baby boom' in the 1960s. In 1960, the average household size in the District was 2.87, and the average family size was 3.65.

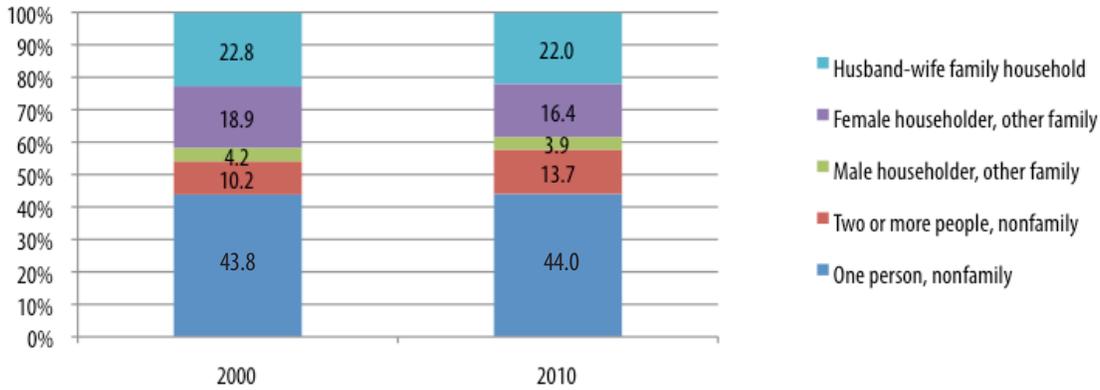
While the number of family households decreased by 18,300 between 2000 and 2010, the husband-wife category under family households actually increased from 56,631 to 58,659 (Table 2). Despite this increase, less than a quarter of all households (22 percent) in the District were husband-wife households in 2010 (Figure 1). The categories of family households which experienced a decrease were the female householder, no spouse present and male householder, no spouse present.

For unmarried couple households, opposite-sex unmarried partner households increased from 11,208 households in 2000 to 15,424 households in 2010, an increase of 37.6 percent (Table 2). As defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the other category of unmarried couple households was same-sex households. Same-sex households have increased from 3,678 households in 2000 to 5,146 households in 2010, a 40 percent increase. However, same-sex households made up less than 2 percent of all households in both 2000 and 2010.

### Persons Living Alone

A significant portion of householders in the United States and, more so, in the District of Columbia lived alone (one-person household) in 2010. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, just over one in four households in the U.S. have only a single occupant (26.7 percent). In the District, this number is closer to one in two households, since 44 percent lived alone. There are a number of factors that lead to people living alone, including never or delaying marriage, divorce, separation or widowed. Among people living alone, there are different percentages by race, ethnicity, gender, age and housing type.

**Figure 1. Households by Type: 2000 and 2010**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010

**Table 2. Household by Type District of Columbia: 2000 and 2010**

Households Type	2000		2010		Change 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Households	248,338	100.0	266,707	100.0	18,369	7.4
Family Household	114,166	46.0	112,715	42.3	-1,451	-1.3
Husband-wife households	56,631	22.8	58,659	22.0	2,028	3.6
Female householder, no spouse present	47,032	18.9	43,680	16.4	-3,352	-7.1
Male householder, no spouse present	10,503	4.2	10,376	3.9	-127	-1.2
Nonfamily households	134,172	54.0	153,992	57.7	19,820	14.7
Male householder	62,417	25.0	71,904	26.8	9,487	15.2
Living alone	48,347	19.5	51,964	19.5	3,617	7.5
Not living alone	14,070	5.7	19,440	7.3	5,370	38.2
Female householder	71,755	28.9	82,588	31.0	10,833	15.1
living alone	60,397	24.3	65,467	24.5	5,070	8.4
Not living alone	11,358	4.6	17,121	6.4	5,763	50.7
Unmarried couple households	14,886	6.0	20,570	7.7	5,684	38.2
Opposite-sex partners	11,208	4.5	15,424	5.8	4,216	37.6
Same-sex partners	3,678	1.5	5,146	1.9	1,468	39.9
Average household size	2.16	(x)	2.11	(x)	-0.05	(x)
Average family size	3.07	(x)	3.01	(x)	-0.06	(x)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1.

In the District, 51.9% of Asian individuals lived alone in 2010, representing the highest percentage among all race groups (Figure 2). By age groups, individuals 35-64 years of age had the highest percentage living alone. Renters had a higher percentage of one-person households

compared to owner-occupied households - 47.8% versus 38.3%. Women were more likely to live alone than men in District - 20.6% of women representing 65,467 females versus 18.3% of men, representing 51,964 males.

Table 3 shows the top ten places throughout the U.S. with the highest proportion of one-person households and percentages for persons 65 years and older. In 2010, one-person households were the most common of household type in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, DC (both 44 percent), followed by St. Louis, MO; Cincinnati, OH; and Alexandria, VA, with 43 percent. According to the Census Bureau, these areas may represent cities inhabited by younger adults who may move in search of job opportunities. People over the age of 65 occupied less than 20 percent of one-person households in Atlanta, GA; Arlington, VA; and Alexandria, VA. In the District of Columbia, people over the age of 65 occupied 22 percent of one-person households.

### Unmarried Partner Households

(Note: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in the 2010 Census, responses of "same-sex spouse" were edited during processing to "unmarried partner.")

The unmarried partner household category identifies people with a close personal relationship to the householder that goes beyond sharing household expenses. Unmarried partners can be either opposite-sex couple households or same-sex couple households. In 2010, there were 6.8 million opposite-sex unmarried partner households in the United States, an increase from 4.9 million in 2000. The state of Maine had the highest percentage of opposite-sex unmarried partner households at 8.4 percent. For same-sex unmarried partner households, their numbers

Figure 2. Living Alone in the District in 2010

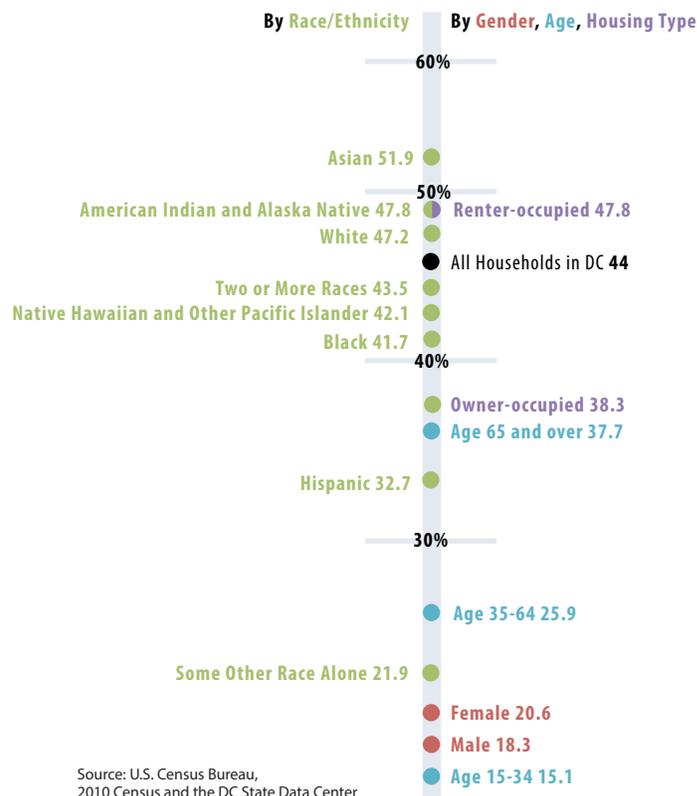


Table 3. Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage of One-Person Households: 2010

Place	Total		One-person households		
	Households	Number	Percent of total	With householder 65 years and over	Percent of one-person
Atlanta city, Georgia	185,142	81,555	44.0	15,832	19.4
Washington city, District of Columbia	288,707	117,431	44.0	25,913	22.1
Cincinnati city, Ohio	133,420	57,941	43.4	13,230	22.8
Alexandria city, Virginia	68,082	29,564	43.4	4,882	16.5
St. Louis city, Missouri	142,057	60,468	42.6	14,424	23.9
Pittsburgh city, Pennsylvania	136,217	56,823	41.7	16,469	29.0
Arlington CDP, Virginia	98,050	40,516	41.3	6,523	16.1
Seattle city, Washington	283,510	117,054	41.3	24,611	21.0
Cambridge city, Massachusetts	44,032	17,933	40.7	4,242	23.7
Denver city, Colorado	263,107	106,828	40.6	23,686	22.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Summary File 1 in Households and Families: 2010 (Issued April 2012).

have also increased nationally from 358,000 in 2000 to 646,000 in 2010. Of all areas, the District had the highest percentage of same-sex unmarried partner households in 2010 (1.8 percent). Among all states, several states were tied with having the highest percentage of same-sex unmarried partner households – these were Delaware, Massachusetts, Vermont, California and Oregon at 0.8 percent of their respective total households.

For more information contact:  
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